Start of something good?
Bielema says comeback vs. Ole Miss a turning point. – Sports, 1C

The pests are coming
As temperatures fall, insects, rodents hunt ways to enter warm houses. – Style, 1E

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Strange things are happening to the time

Daylight saving time will end at 2 a.m. Sunday. Clocks should be set back one hour.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/NIKKI DAWES

In the news

■ **Angelique Smith**, 45, of North Arlington, Vt., faces larceny counts after state police said she took cheesecakes and pastries worth $250 without leaving any money at the unstaffed gift shop at the Nuns of New Skete monastery in White Creek, N.Y.

■ **Liang Bartkowiak**, an obstetrician-gynecologist in Altoona, Pa., said she's been inundated with calls from men trying to set up appointments after hearing she has a permit to prescribe medical marijuana.

■ **Martha O'Donovan**, 25, an American who works in Zimbabwe, was arrested in the capital, Harare, and charged with subversion on accusations that she insulted the country's president, Robert Mugabe, by calling him a "selfish and sick man" on social media.

■ **Cyrus Matthews**, 19, of Cleveland had just been sentenced to 60 days in jail in a road-rage case when he walked out of the courtroom, jumped into a car and led police on a chase that ended when he crashed into an SUV, injuring three people, police said.

■ **Donna Byrne**, 53, was arrested on drunken-driving and animal-neglect charges after sheriff's deputies received reports of a woman who appeared confused and in danger as she rode her horse on a busy highway in Lakeland, Fla.

■ **Louis Delmonte**, a town supervisor in Sheridan, N.Y., said he had a permit but was ticketed for illegal disposal of a building when he used an excavator to dig a hole next to his auto repair shop, tore it down and dumped the debris into the hole.

■ **Michael Tice**, 18, of Newport, Pa., and fellow Pennsylvanians David Snook, 19, and Morgan Ehrenzeller, 20, were cited for illegally disturbing and possessing wildlife after photos appeared on social media of them giving beer to an opossum and kissing it, investigators said.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Patchy fog early, then partly cloudy.
High 79, light southwest winds.
Tonight Partly cloudy.
Low 67.

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AP/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., attack the GOP tax plan Friday on Capitol Hill. "It's really making suckers of the American people," Pelosi said.

GOP weighs mixing health law, tax cuts

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The House's leading tax writer on Friday opened the possibility that Congress' push to cut taxes could mesh with its so-far failed effort to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, saying the tax bill could include a measure to do away with the health law's mandate that most Americans have health coverage.

Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said no decision had been made about whether to include repeal of the so-called individual mandate. But he noted that President Donald Trump wants its inclusion, and indicated that Republicans wanted to evaluate the fiscal effects of taking that step.

"The president feels very strongly about including this at some step before the final process," Brady said Friday at an event hosted by Politico, adding that there were "pros and cons" to repealing the mandate as part of the tax overhaul.

Numerous White House officials believe that attaching changes to the Affordable Care Act to the tax package would be a terrible idea, potentially dooming the entire tax bill, according to several people the officials have spoken with but were not permitted to disclose the White

See **TAXES**, Page 7A

Support for fugitive separatists

AP/MANU FERNANDEZ

Demonstrators fill a street Friday evening in Barcelona to protest a Spanish judge's issuance of an international arrest warrant for members of the disbanded Catalan Cabinet, including ousted leader Carles Puigdemont. Puigdemont and four Cabinet members fled to Brussels after being charged with crimes including rebellion, sedition and embezzlement for their roles in pushing for secession for Catalonia. *Article, 2A*

October's hires leap to 261,000 after hurricanes

Jobless rate drops to 4.1% as more stop looking for work

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers added 261,000 jobs in October in a bounce back from the September hurricanes.

The unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent, the lowest in nearly 17 years, from 4.2 percent in September, the Labor Department said Friday. But the drop in the rate occurred mostly because many people stopped looking for work and so were no longer counted as unemployed.

The unemployment figure has fallen steadily this year, from 4.8 percent in January.

October's burst of hiring largely reflects a rebound from the hurricanes that temporarily depressed job gains in September. But it also shows that for all their fury, the storms didn't knock the economy or the job market off course. Over the past three months, job growth has averaged 162,000, similar to the pace of hiring before the hurricanes.

"Hiring got a boost from the post-hurricane rebound, but the underlying trend remained steady," said Jed Kolko, chief economist at Indeed, a job-search website.

See **JOBS**, Page 3A

TRADE DEFICIT edges higher in September. Page 1D.

LR schools' rolls drop by 421, repeating last year's attrition

CYNTHIA HOWELL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Little Rock School District has recorded an enrollment drop of more than 400 students in kindergarten through 12th grade for the second consecutive year, contributing to a loss of more than 1,000 students since 2014-15.

The capital city district, under state control without a locally elected school board and the home to a growing number of independently operated public charter schools, remains the state's largest school system this year by a 510-student margin over the Springdale School District in Northwest Arkansas.

The Little Rock district's count from kindergarten through 12th grade is 22,338.

That is 421 fewer than last year's count of 22,759, which was 405 fewer than the 23,164 student enrollment recorded in 2015-16. This year's number is 1,025 fewer than the 23,363 Little Rock district enrollment recorded in 2014-15.

The enrollment counts come as two new independently operated charter schools are state-approved to open in the Little Rock district's boundaries in the 2018-19 school year and a third is approved for opening in the

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 3A

Trump says ISIS hit over NYC rampage

U.S. said to strike fighters in Somalia

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Friday that the U.S. military is attacking the Islamic State militant group "10 times harder" in response to Tuesday's New York City truck attack, and later in the day, officials said the U.S. had conducted two airstrikes against Islamic State-affiliated fighters in Somalia.

It was not immediately clear whether the Somalia strikes were carried out as White House-directed retaliation for the truck attack that killed eight people.

The suspect in the New York attack, Sayfullo Saipov, told FBI interrogators that he was inspired by the Islamic State, and Trump wrote in a tweet that the group claimed Saipov as "their soldier."

See **ATTACK**, Page 7A

SYRIAN, IRAQI TROOPS report ouster of Islamic State forces from two towns. Page 6A.

TRUMP HEADS to Asia, pulled in different policy directions by base, advisers. Page 6A.

Bergdahl gets no time, a dishonorable release

ALEX HORTON
THE WASHINGTON POST

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who in 2009 walked off a U.S. military outpost in eastern Afghanistan and spent the next five years in enemy captivity, was sentenced Friday to a dishonorable discharge from the Army but will avoid prison time.

Bergdahl, 31, pleaded guilty in October to charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy and had faced a maximum life sentence. As the judge, Army Col. Jeffery Nance, prepared to read his sentence, Bergdahl appeared shaken, clenching his jaw as he had done during other tense moments throughout the proceedings.

It was unclear how Nance arrived at his decision. The judge promptly left the courtroom after delivering the announcement, making no additional statements. A member of Bergdahl's defense team wept.

Bergdahl's case sparked ferocious debate over his actions and the contentious prisoner exchange that led to his release in 2014, challenging the military's bedrock principle of never leaving a soldier behind.

It also was overshadowed by President Donald

See **BERGDAHL**, Page 5A

AP/The Fayetteville Observer/ANDREW CRAFT

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl enters a courtroom (left photo) at Fort Bragg, N.C., for his sentencing hearing Friday. Facing a possible life sentence, he instead was dishonorably discharged and left court (right photo) in civilian clothes.